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ITALY.

CATANIA.

By Consul Robertson Honey.

The consular district of Catania is given over principally to agriculture and is not important as a manufacturing center. War conditions brought about a decrease in some of the district's exports to the United States, but that country remained interested in nuts, olives, lemons, essential oils, and citrate of lime. Oranges are grown to a large extent but are not exported to the United States. Bergamot, also, is grown, principally in Calabria, and is an important factor in the perfumery and toilet-article industry. The carob bean is found in considerable quantities, growing practically wild and thriving in rough, volcanic soil, especially near the sea.

The principal mining products are sulphur, pumice stone, and rock asphalt. Sulphur is found in considerable quantity in the mountainous portions of the district and in the interior of Sicily. Pumice stone is found in the Lipari Islands, 18 in number, to the north of and belonging to the Province of Messina. Syracuse has valuable mines of rock asphalt.

Catania is the center for sulphur refining; this is the most important industry of the city. There are also establishments for manufacture of citrate of lime, essential oils, olive foots, and paste (macaroni and the like). Syracuse has a large paste factory, and Augusta, in the Province of Syracuse, has plants for obtaining salt by evaporation of sea water.

Port Activities of the District.

The three principal ports of the Catania district are Messina, Catania, and Syracuse. There is also considerable shipping from Giarre, the port of Riposto, an important wine center; from Reggio-Calabria, engaged principally in coastwise trade; and from Augusta, also engaged in the coastwise trade and a convenient port of departure for the Near East, which, however, is served to a greater extent by Syracuse.

The harbors of the district are being improved, notably at Catania and Messina. Shipyards are in process of construction, and other facilities are expected to be available soon.

During 1916, 2,105 sailing vessels, of 38,295 net tons, and 530 steamers, with a tonnage of 769,070, entered Catania, and 2,099

sailing vessels, of 40,099 tons, and 525 steamers, of 767,009 tons, cleared the port. In 1917 there was a material decrease in shipping, arrivals numbering 1,365 sailing vessels, with a net tonnage of 20,905, and 203 steamers, with a tonnage of 316,523; clearances numbered 1,363 sailing vessels, of 20,905 tons, and 209 steamers, of 293,709 tons.

Trade in Essential Oils.

A very large part of the world's supply of essential oils is found in the market of Messina. The United States is Messina's best customer and takes about one-half of the entire output. For 1917, Messina's total export was 778,592 kilos (1 kilo=2.2046 pounds), gross weight, as against 812,392 kilos in 1916. The United States took 431,309 kilos of the 1917 export and 373,183 kilos during 1916. Italy itself took some additional 31,469 kilos during 1916.

Essential oils are packed in crates containing the flasks or coppers which hold the oil; the net weight of oil exports is obtained by deducting about 40 per cent from the gross weight. Exports to the United States for 1917 were 347,842 kilos of lemon oil, 45,382 kilos of bergamot, 37,727 kilos of sweet orange, and 358 kilos of other essential oils.

Bergamot is cultivated exclusively for the manufacture of essences, and the market for this variety is limited. Consequently the area cultivated in bergamot is small, with the result that the supply and demand do not always balance and the fluctuations in price of this oil are greater than in prices of others. During 1917, the price per Silician pound (about 0.7 pound avoirdupois) of lemon oil varied from 2.75 to 4.10 lire (normal exchange value of lira is $0.193), sweet orange from 8.80 to 10.35 lire, and bergamot from 16.70 to 22 lire.

The total exports of essences for 1916 and 1917 were distributed by countries as follows:

Countries.	1916	1917	Countries.	1916	1917
	Kilos.	*Kilos.*		*Kilos.*	*Kilos.*
United States	373,183	431,309	Denmark	30,049	1,513
England	251,291	197,736	Greece	745	778
France	64,673	58,452	Switzerland	6,596	431
Australia	26,844	36,226	Norway	557	185
Sweden	33,750	16,411	Russia	1,332	.....
South America	3,720	14,843	Malta	.....	301
Netherlands	8,807	9,495	Canada	1,721	.....
Spain	4,667	5,420	Portugal	202	.....
Egypt	1,597	2,285			
India	2,137	1,641	Total	812,392	778,592
Japan	518	1,566			

Citrate of Lime—Sulphur.

Citrate of lime is a valuable product of Sicily; the raw material for its manufacture is found locally in abundance. During 1917 the Italian Government aided manufacturers by fixing the price at 433 lire per quintal of 220 pounds and placing the output under Government control. In both 1916 and 1917, the United States was Sicily's best customer for this product.

The 13 sulphur refineries of Catania are operated under an agreement known to Italian law as consorzio. During 1916, they refined the output of 315 mines in various parts of Sicily, including this consular district. These mines gave employment to about 11,500

laborers in that year and yielded 236,291 tons of crude sulphur; this was a falling off of about 26.7 per cent from the output of the preceding year.

During 1916, exports of sulphur aggregated 406,981 tons, 170,690 tons being drawn from the stock on hand. During 1917, the output of mines fell to 177,453 tons, and the export was reduced to 162,971 tons. The stock on hand was about 157,000 tons.

Early in 1916 prices began to correspond to the heavy demand. There was an advance of about 50 per cent in May of that year and further advances of about 15 per cent each during July and September. During 1917, especially in March, April, July, and September, prices again advanced to a total of about 100 per cent for the year. Prices thus became about 400 per cent higher than before the outbreak of hostilities; even so, Sicilian quotations are below those ruling for the American product. There have been rumors that foreign buyers of sulphur will be required to pay in the equivalent of gold (about 150 per cent) in order to put the product on American basis. These high prices have lent stimulus to the industry, and new mining properties, with improved machinery and methods, are being leased and developed.

Soap Factory Uses New Process.

High prices of raw material have seriously affected the manufacture of soap and chemical supplies, but details are not available for 1916 or 1917. Catania has a large soap plant known as L'Insulare, employing 200 laborers and covering an area of about 5 acres. Modern methods are used, and before the war there were large exports to the Near East, Russia, South Africa, and America.

The saponifying process employed consists in the use of common salt (Mediterranean), with a slight addition of pure soda to the fats. It is thought that this is a new process, and the results are said to be excellent. Patents have been applied for. The basis of the process seems to be the chemical transformation of free ammonia by means of common salt and soda. The free ammonia is transformed into chloride of ammonium, which is used again for ammoniacal soaps while the other soaps remain on a pure soda basis. This is said to be the only establishment in Italy that produces chemically pure soaps according to foreign standards. The concern has recently acquired and is developing a mine of sulphate of soda in the neighborhood of Catania. This chemical compound is of use in glass manufacture as well as in other industries of similar nature.

Sicily is more or less isolated during war times from the commercial intercourse of foreigners. The island has been accustomed to receive its supply from the northern parts of the Italian mainland. It is believed that it will be difficult to introduce direct imports from the United States unless American exporters are represented in person and not by mail. There are no large wholesale houses as considered from the American standpoint, but the population is thrifty and can afford to buy first-class articles if properly introduced. Stocks during both 1916 and 1917 were very low, and there was little, if any replenishment in the retail houses.

Exports to United States.

There has been a steady increase in exports from Sicily to the United States during the past few years. The following table gives

the quantity and value of the exports invoiced at Catania for shipment to that country in 1916 and 1917:

Articles.	1916		1917	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Cheese.....pounds..	233,080	$51,593	.....	.....
Citrate of lime.....do....	8,324,325	2,012,208	6,579,150	$1,964,198
Fruit:				
In brine.....do....	1,624,106	40,286	1,995,404	99,240
Lemons.....boxes..	320,444	1,011,784	259,750	1,108,910
Olives.....pounds..	2,314,500	135,610	1,493,111	101,606
Licorice.....do....	1,716,300	122,291	1,958,621	197,240
Macaroni.....do....	141,976	12,383	.....	.....
Nuts:				
Almonds.....do....	5,103,839	1,427,438	6,165,079	1,836,690
Filberts.....do....	3,954,391	505,119	3,832,569	596,520
Pistachio.....do....	130,782	61,613	125,735	72,220
Oils:				
Essential.....do....	670,743	872,224	689,784	1,289,164
Olive.....gallons..	39,380	65,089	.....	.....
Sulphur-olive.....pounds..	333,656	33,836	459,688	64,580
Pumice stone.....do....	16,253,594	145,393	18,348,610	170,850
Seed, mustard.....do....	22,046	3,088	24,250	3,185
Tomato conserves.....do....	130,337	12,702	.....	.....
Wine.....gallons..	51,991	35,560	56,483	47,200
All other articles.....	.....	67,577	.....	44,110
Total.....	.....	6,615,887	.....	7,595,713

There were no invoices certified at Catania for Porto Rico, Hawaii, or the Philippine Islands during these years.

PALERMO.

By Consul Samuel H. Shank.

General commercial and economic conditions in the Palermo consular district in 1917 were not greatly different from those of the previous year. The agricultural interests suffered from the lack of labor and the restrictions on the exportations of food products. One thing which disturbed commercial affairs was the increased submarine warfare, which caused many steamers to quit calling at this port. The more rigorous regulations controlling the arrivals and departures of vessels has had a depressing effect on commerce. Shippers were uncertain as to when they would be able to load merchandise, and it was not certain whether the vessel would leave port after it was loaded. This was especially disastrous at this port, as a large part of the cargo exported from here is composed of lemons, and when the loaded ships had to wait a week or ten days before sailing the fruit was liable to damage.

The damage to commerce was not confined to exports; the uncertainty of arrival of goods from abroad caused numerous delays and difficulties in fulfilling contracts.

The usual daily boats between Palermo and the Continent were stopped, and the whole of Sicily became dependent on the one railway line which connects the island with the Continent for all its passenger service and a large part of the freight service. Owing to the use of the railway for military purposes, the line was so occupied that the Government refused to accept for shipment many articles from northern Italy to Sicily. This interfered with business in all lines.

General Imports into Palermo.

High rates of exchange and the cost of freight reduced the trade with foreign countries, and merchants bought only such goods as were an absolute necessity. The imports in 1914 approximated 300,000 tons, as against 190,000 in 1917; and the exports were about 210,000 tons in 1914, as compared with 140,000 tons in 1917.

Imports of coal, charcoal, lumber, herbs for dyeing, maize, paraffin, petroleum, steel plates and scrap iron, peanut oil, and lard showed great reductions in 1917 as compared with 1914. The following articles which were imported in quantities in 1914 were not imported in 1917: Ammonium sulphate, fertilizers, hay, hogs, mineral earths, sodium sulphate, and wood. Cacao, dyeing extracts, crude fiber, grease, herbs for tanning, and wheat were imported in increased quantities.

In the following table the imports into Palermo for 1917 are compared with those for the normal year 1914:

Articles.	1914	1917	Articles.	1914	1917
	Tons.	*Tons.*		*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Ammonium sulphate	1,513	.....	Maize	2,473	.....
Bran	615	.....	Milk, condensed	.....	47
Bricks	695	149	Mercery	30	1
Buckwheat	180	.....	Oil:		
Cacao	.....	11	Coconut	25	.....
Castings, metal	330	9	Heavy	148	.....
Cement	.....	106	Linseed, boiled	.....	31
Chinaware	47	2	Mineral and resinous	540	161
Charcoal	2,842	94	Mineral residues of distillation	1,302	1,648
Chrome of calcium	.....	78	Palm	.....	55
Coal	163,220	86,615	Peanut	1,897	.....
Coffee	784	636	Paints and colors	.....	6
Dates	69	1	Paraffin	1,215	590
Dyes, coal-tar	.....	1	Pasteboard	316	.....
Earths:			Pencils	.....	4
For paints	.....	5	Pepper	126	39
Mineral	17,941	2	Petroleum	3,178	1,395
Eggs	135	.....	Phosphates, mineral	.....	1,031
Extracts for dyeing	.....	4	Pianos	[a] 235	.....
Fertilizers	1,145	.....	Potassium:		
Fibers:			Carbonate	220	.....
Crude	.....	28	Hydroxide	456	.....
Vegetable	140	21	Silicate	.....	44
Fish:			Poultry	112	.....
Fresh	169	.....	Roots for dyeing:		
In brine	271	3	Unground	644	369
Smoked	620	.....	Ground	.....	378
Furniture	108	52	Rope	.....	27
Glass	.....	1	Scientific instruments	32	.....
Graphite	.....	2	Seeds:		
Grease	.....	407	Oil	.....	23
Hay	1,321	.....	Sesame	360	.....
Herbs	1,235	82	Other	254	10
Hogs	[a] 1,731	.....	Sewing machines	.....	16
Iron and steel:			Shoes, including rubber shoes	.....	2
Manufactures	644	12	Shoe polish	35	.....
Plates	1,360	10	Soda:		
Pipes	96	5	Bicarbonate	.....	55
Scrap	1,569	56	Carbonate of	.....	337
Jute:			Caustic	.....	63
Raw	47	.....	Sulphate of	2,810	.....
Sacks	.....	6	Sodium nitrate	205	.....
Lampblack	.....	44	Tartar:		
Lard	494	64	Cream of	35	.....
Leather:			Crude	213	16
Raw	26	15	Textiles	1	22
Belting	.....	1	Tin	.....	3
Lumber:			Tobacco, leaf	976	1,120
Rough	30,078	156	Tomatoes	.....	1
Manufactured	1,334	47	Tools	.....	2
Machinery:			Twine	.....	52
Agricultural	48	.....	Typewriters	.....	2
Hydraulic	22	.....	Varnish	28	6
Spinning	11	26	Vegetable products	999	4
Steam	235	8	Vegetables, dried	380	.....
Woodworking	25	.....	Wheat	43,478	86,819
Other, and parts of	144	15			

[a] Number.

Articles.	1914	1917	Articles.	1914	1917
	Tons.	*Tons.*		*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Wine lees	.....	116	Woolen cloth	33	.....
Wire	.....	48	Zinc:		
Wood	3,852	.....	Plates	138	6
Wood for tanning and dyes	.....	21	Manufactures of	.....	3
Wooden utensils	.....	21			

Principal Articles of Export.

Cheese, citrate of lime, herbs for dyeing, macaroni, and unwashed wool were the only articles which were not exported in 1917 that had been previously. Cheese and macaroni were on the prohibited list. There was a great reduction in exports of wine, lemons, oranges, human hair, olive oil, sumac, sulphur, crude tartar, cork, lemon essence, fresh fruits, and tomato sauce.

The quantity of the exports from the port of Palermo for the years 1914 and 1917 was as follows:

Articles.	1914	1917	Articles.	1914	1917
	Tons.	*Tons.*		*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Acid, citric	487	806	Licorice:		
Barrels	49,943	5,438	Juice of	.....	49
Baskets	.....	4	Root	.....	30
Books	.....	4	Lumber, common	.....	30
Cement	.....	41	Macaroni	1,760	.....
Cheese	197	.....	Manna	141	105
Citrate of lime	85	.....	Nuts:		
Cotton:			Almonds—		
Cloth	25	17	In shell	.....	491
Thread	.....	2	Shelled	923	876
Cork	1,023	201	Hazelnuts	781	1,167
Earth, mineral and rock	.....	6,035	Pistachio	10	16
Essences:			Oil, olive:		
Lemon	107	49	Edible	1,681	233
Orange	.....	3	Soap stock	798	743
Fish:			Paper	.....	3
In oil	189	52	Roots, medicinal	.....	40
Tunny	.....	3	Rope	50	16
Fleshings	.....	38	Seed:		
Furniture, ordinary	.....	12	Mustard	105	69
Fruit:			Sesame	.....	10
Fresh	425	9	Other	.....	2
Lemons	149,935	85,415	Skins, goat and sheep	36	8
Oranges	8,007	3,714	Soap, perfumed	25	8
Fruits and vegetables, preserved	1,161	312	Sulphur	6,317	1,075
Gloves	.....	[a] 33,240	Sumac:		
Glass, window	17	26	Not ground	4,789	4,925
Glue	.....	8	Ground	14,174	8,131
Hay	.....	25	Tomato sauce	6,033	956
Hemp	.....	1	Tartar:		
Herbs for dyeing, not ground	274	.....	Crude and wine lees	2,576	269
Hides, green	136	7	Cream of	381	406
Human hair	4,491	29	Tobacco, manufactured	.....	14
Lemon:			Wine:		
Juice, raw	.....	57	Common	[b] 980,600	[b] 415,300
Peel, fresh and dried	304	560	Marsala	.....	22,250
			Wool, unwashed	20	.....

[a] Pairs. [b] Liters.

Shipments to the United States.

Declared exports to the United States from Palermo in 1917 were valued at $4,637,422, as compared with $5,631,433 in 1916. The articles showing the greatest decreases were olive oil, cheese, lemons, macaroni, ground sumac, lemon essence, tomato sauce, olives, human hair, common wine, and artichokes. It will be noted that the greater part of these are food products, the exportation of which was restricted.

The following exports showed increases in 1917 over 1916: Almonds, citric acid, sumac leaf, filberts, crude tartar, Marsala wine, manna and mannite, and licorice.

The quantity and value of the principal articles invoiced at the American consulate at Palermo for shipment to the United States during these years were:

Articles.	1916		1917	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Acid, citric....pounds..	66,128	$55,958	249,700	$230,634
Cheese....do....	1,981,826	479,207	.....	.....
Cork....do....	38,432	8,786	40,000	12,020
Essences:				
Bergamot....do....	6,102	15,852	3,971	10,182
Lemon....do....	183,089	131,946	60,122	69,611
Orange....do....	6,295	12,818	1,305	3,392
Fish, salted and preserved....do....	284,236	31,971	232,122	26,960
Fleshings....do....	.....	.....	62,206	3,750
Fruits:				
Lemons....packages..	1,109,565	2,328,820	853,126	1,900,176
Olives....pounds..	298,555	22,132	39,900	2,136
Pears, prickly....do....	5,040	3,738	.....	.....
Peel—				
Lemon....do....	.....	.....	26,186	3,396
Orange....do....	11,023	406	28,879	2,836
Gloves....dozen pairs..	2,582	10,368	2,151	18,071
Hair, human....pounds..	50,203	202,374	42,131	182,142
Laces and linen....cases..	51	26,113	100	35,517
Licorice....pounds..	.....	.....	64,340	17,159
Macaroni....do....	894,520	161,043	.....	.....
Manna and mannite....do....	89,985	86,828	134,554	104,207
Nuts:				
Almonds....do....	541,269	139,584	1,092,230	333,092
Filberts....do....	1,674,188	194,049	1,986,750	307,007
Pistachio....do....	14,314	11,000	14,025	9,564
Oil:				
Olive, edible....gallons..	368,765	496,425	500	598
Sulphur (soap stock)....pounds..	1,045,054	86,059	1,900,387	177,885
Salt, marine....do....	5,754,042	6,645	.....	.....
Seeds:				
Mustard....do....	.....	.....	22,046	3,397
Sesame....do....	312,015	13,480	22,222	1,610
Skins, goat....cases..	.....	8,979	40	409
Snuff....pounds..	26,793	26,492	28,747	17,783
Squills....do....	57,000	3,000	55,096	7,842
Sumac:				
Ground....do....	13,349,286	471,210	8,138,352	334,309
Leaf....do....	1,464,194	55,702	6,205,766	220,780
Tartar, crude....do....	1,271,000	259,907	1,428,446	349,766
Vegetables:				
Artichokes, preserved....do....	5,900	17,123	434	2,215
Capers....cases..	.....	.....	26,597	2,076
Garlic....pounds..	70,452	4,836	.....	.....
Tomato sauce....cases..	9,856	47,701	858	11,418
Other....do....	16,405	55,505	6,134	59,162
Wine:				
Common....gallons..	128,584	94,705	91,070	76,538
Marsala....do....	31,205	39,977	86,352	96,892
All other articles	.....	21,201	.....	2,880
Total	.....	5,631,433	.....	4,637,422

Shortage of Labor Affects Agricultural Industry.

In general the crops last year were about 25 per cent short, owing to the shortage of labor. The amount of wheat produced was 471,900 tons, as compared with 640,800 in 1916. The production of barley was 82,200 tons in 1917 and 106,300 tons in 1916. The relative yields of oats and rye were proportionately better; there were 30,400 tons of oats produced in 1917 and 30,300 tons in 1916; the rye crop amounted to 6,200 tons, as compared with 6,700 in 1916. The corn production was the same in both years, namely, 1,900 tons.

The lemon crop was below the average. Statistics for this district are not available, but the crop for all of Italy was 540,000 tons, of which 200,000 tons were used for the production of citrate of lime. Exports of lemons amounted to 160,000 tons and local consumption to 50,000. This latter item was increased, owing to the large consumption by the army. The production of oranges, both bitter and sweet, was medium, amounting to 265,000 tons, of which 120,000 tons were exported and the rest consumed in Italy. The mandarin crop was also below the average, being estimated at 35,000 tons.

Sulphur Under Government Control.

The largest single industry in the Palermo district is sulphur mining. Some years ago this was much more important than to-day. Of a total of 750 mines but 450 are in operation at present. This is due partly to the lack of labor and partly to the increased cost of production in certain mines, which makes their operation unprofitable. The amount produced formerly was about 400,000 tons, but this was reduced to 233,000 tons in 1916 and to 177,000 tons in 1917. The stock on hand in Sicily at the end of 1917 was 156,802 tons, as compared with 155,372 tons in 1916. Exports were 163,062 tons in 1917, as against 397,073 for 1916.

The Italian Government controls the entire production of sulphur and prohibits exports except under license. The Italian refineries use about 180,000 tons a year, so the present rate of production leaves little for exportation.

Prices range from 228s. ($55.48) per ton f. o. b. Sicilian ports for thirds to 235s. ($57.18) for unmixed seconds. Refined sulphur sells for 300s. to 350s. ($73 to $85.16) per ton. As American sulphur is cheaper than Sicilian, it is believed that should freights become normal it will be possible to import American sulphur into Italy.

Citric-Acid Factory—Other Industries.

The largest citric-acid factory in this district is located at Palermo. The production last year was large, owing to the low price of lemons. However, the sales were reduced toward the end of the year on account of the lack of markets, and profits were not as large as for two or three years previous. On the whole, however, the year's results were satisfactory.

In all Sicily the production of grapes amounted to 724,100 tons, the average for five years before being but 666,600 tons. The must showed a large amount of glucose and the wines a high strength. On account of old stocks being exhausted and the demand being great, high prices were obtained, and the manufacturers reported a profitable year.

Manufacturers of tomato paste and sauce worked under many difficulties. The prohibition of exportation of food products limited the market, and the lack of labor limited the production.

The manufacture of macaroni was also limited by want of markets, lack of grain, and cost of fuel and labor.

Olive-oil production was reduced because of a deficient olive crop.

The production of citrate of lime amounted to 7,000 tons; this was sold, but there remained unsold a surplus of 2,500 tons of the year before.

VENICE.

By Consul B. Harvey Carroll, jr.

Venice has practically ceased to exist as a mercantile port during the war. According to customs statistics the amount of imports in 1917 was only 429,000 quintals, as compared with 23,000,000 quintals in 1913 and 16,760,000 quintals in 1914, the importation for 1914 occurring almost entirely in the first half of that year.

Exports from Venice amounted to only 7,890 quintals in 1917, as compared with 1,950,000 quintals in 1913 and 2,000,000 quintals in 1914. In fact, all important exports have been stopped or seriously diminished, although the exports of certain articles, such as lace and embroideries, glass beads, and cuttlebone, to the United States have increased during the war period.

Industries have been hampered by the fact that their sales and office forces have been decreased by war conditions rather than by lack of labor, as many classes of labor have been thrown out of employment and have had to go elsewhere to find work. This especially applies to all stevedores, dock workers, and similar classes whose livelihood depended on port activity. The destruction by war of the plants of many industries has also thrown many people out of employment. The plant of the Contonificio here, the largest cotton-spinning mill in the Veneto, was destroyed by bombs in 1915; the following year the great wool industry at Schio was obliged to migrate; and the hydroelectric plants of the Cellina Co., located at Cellina and Montreale, fell into the hands of the enemy in 1917. The porcelain and terra-cotta plants at Montebelluna have been closed, the great candle-making plant at Mira was transferred to Leghorn, and many smaller industries have closed or migrated.

Venetian Industries Affected by War.

Most of the great industries affected by the war, including Venetian lace and bead making, cotton spinning, candle and match making, glass blowing, the manufacture of art glass and mosaics, art furniture making, manufacture of antiquities, tourist trade industries, and earthenware making, will return to Venice and the Veneto immediately after the war, but it will probably be some years before they reach the flourishing condition they enjoyed in the first half of 1914.

Venice will be greatly developed as a port following a victorious conclusion of the war. The navigation lines now moved to Genoa and Leghorn will return, and new lines will be established to North and South America and probably to India and the Dutch West Indies.

There are not now in Venice any large stocks of any kind of food, raw materials, or other goods available for shipment. This district will need after the war large and immediate supplies of coal, fertilizers, firewood, Indian corn, wheat, wool, hides and leather, glass-making materials, fats, dye woods and roots, many kinds of machinery, and ordinary implements and utensils of iron and steel.

The railways of this district belong almost entirely to the Government, and the public utilities are owned by the cities or are under contracts that give the cities control. Practically all hotels, many transportation enterprises, and the tourist industry were formerly

controlled by Germans and Austrians. The hotels have been taken over for hospitals and other alien-owned properties are administered by the Italian Government.

During the period of the war the Banca Italiana di Sconto has opened an important branch here, and the Banca Cooperativa Veneziana, with a capital stock of 450,000 lire ($86,850), has been opened.

Imports into Venice for 1914, 1915, and 1916.

The principal imports into Venice for the years 1914, 1915, and 1916 (no detailed statistics for 1917) were, in order of quantity, as follows:

Articles.	1914	1915	1916
	Metric tons.	*Metric tons.*	*Metric tons.*
Coal and coke	1,024,107	208,038	9,445
Mineral phosphates	145,085	45,519	.....
Earth, stones, and nonmetallic minerals	162,858	10,931	325
Firewood	41,106	15,005	2
Cotton, raw	30,742	10,617	1,781
Maize, yellow	28,494	4,067	.....
Iron pyrites	26,937	12,733	.....
Wheat, soft	18,689	40,571	.....
Nitrate of sodium	18,084	7,933	30
Petroleum	17,536	8,715	1,152
Oats	15,229	285	.....
Lumber, sawn	15,225	334	23
Cellulose	12,342	552	.....
Jute, raw	11,261	7,163	.....
Oils, fixed	10,075	2,395	592
Fats	6,621	2,295	.....
Carbonate of soda	5,425	395	.....
Pig iron	5,259	25	31
Scoria Thomas	5,150	149	.....
Mineral oils, heavy	4,299	1,281	341
Barley malt	4,485	1	.....
Coffee	3,575	3,579	3,255
Seeds, castor	3,565	425	1
Lumber, rough	3,128	187	.....
Hemp, raw	3,055	1,065	.....
Wool, raw, in grease	2,934	95	.....
Chemical fertilizers	2,370	45	.....
Sulphate of copper	2,337	623	.....
Tobacco, in leaf	1,910	570	.....
Bricks	1,565	7	44
Vegetables, dried	1,327	62	.....
Hides, cattle	1,498	374	.....
Feculæ	1,317	.....	.....
Building stones	1,259	185	.....
Colophony	1,135	842	219

The value of the imports into Venice for 1914, 1915, and 1916 is given below in lire of $0.193:

Imports.	1914	1915	1916
	Lire.	*Lire.*	*Lire.*
Acid, tannic, impure	228,897	.....	.....
Benzine	128,834	81,270	.....
Cellulose	3,455,536	220,781	124
Cereals:			
Barley malt	1,794,000	460	.....
Feculæ	917,415	11,340	.....
Maize, yellow	5,128,920	1,037,134	.....
Millet, etc	59,850	61,645	26,823
Oats	2,741,220	78,490	.....
Wheat—			
Hard	3,745,560	1,453,045	.....
Soft	4,205,025	15,620,022	62
Clock and watch movements	339,500	176,081	.....
Coal and coke	25,331,691	17,267,119	788,085
Coffee	5,183,605	5,368,715	4,882,532
Colophony	295,022	336,719	87,598
Copper sulphate	1,285,075	460,947	.....
Corozo (vegetable ivory)	415,800	75,000	.....

Imports.	1914	1915	1916
Cotton:			
Cloth—	*Lire.*	*Lire.*	*Lire.*
Colored	381,901	75,993	.....
Plain and printed	103,629	35,697	2,740
Raw	51,953,304	13,809,247	2,373,875
Dates	287,385	7,622	.....
Earths, stones, and nonmetallic minerals	2,442,870	284,204	83,460
Eggs	414,400	9,735	.....
Electrical supplies:			
Lamps, incandescent	393,760	13,617	.....
Wires and cables	132,608	.....	.....
Fats	5,296,720	2,180,583	.....
Fertilizers:			
Chemical	142,200	3,157	.....
Scoria Thomas	369,060	10,448	23
Fibers:			
Hair, vegetable	149,605	12,947	38
Hemp, raw	2,662,057	905,208	.....
Jute, raw	7,376,686	6,088,125	.....
Fish:			
Cod, dried and stockfish	661,295	171,095	528
Gut, salted	171,825	9,490	.....
Other, fresh	251,460	61	.....
Furniture, ordinary	149,960	1,650	1,391
Gums:			
India rubber, gutta-percha, and manufactures of	125,804	1,411	10,600
Other	112,880	39,668	9,538
Guns	.....	.....	27,600
Hides and skins:			
Cattle	5,951,720	1,848,970	699
Lamb	60,060	744,821	643
Hogs	240,562	.....	.....
Kernels, peach and apricot	95,490	36,745	100
Lumber, rough and sawn	2,009,350	78,416	4,029
Machines and machinery:			
Agricultural	188,400	.....	.....
Locomotives (without tenders)	98,868	.....	59,035
Milling	154,800	260,095	.....
Parts, not iron or steel	106,520	19,737	15,846
Sewing machines and parts	450,035	1,247	.....
Spinning	150,120	.....	.....
Steam engines and other motors	132,965	112	20,780
Other machinery	70,880	3,386	51,064
Medicine:			
Woods, barks, leaves, etc	480,800	123,814	18,999
Minerals, metals, and manufactures:			
Copper, brass, and bronze ingots	637,606	9,463	136,796
Iron—			
Plate	178,080	65,504	112,677
Pig	473,319	3,518	5,059
Pyrites	592,614	356,528	.....
Zinc, pigs and scrap	156,343	.....	.....
Motor cars	167,000	26,000	84,000
Oils:			
Coconut	232,780	829	.....
Cotton	1,471,666	208,235	73,310
Fish	641,380	81,438	3,244
Fixed, n. e. s	9,772,459	2,873,552	710,134
Mineral—			
Heavy	1,504,790	588,978	176,681
Residue, distilled	392,595	7,709	100
Olive	641,550	223,589	383,399
Palm	632,460	571	.....
Petroleum	2,279,719	1,525,074	201,544
Phosphates	4,642,720	2,183,327	.....
Potassium sulphate	156,700	7,500	150
Paraffin, solid	2,190,658	1,850,403	9,093
Pearl, mother-of	187,785	91,800	92,655
Peppers	174,000	149,207	105,994
Raisins	301,200	198,615	65,052
Rape and colza	181,220	.....	.....
Scientific instruments	206,500	30,075	32,513
Seeds:			
Castor	1,176,516	161,461	5,832
Flax	284,360	272,738	282
Sesame and peanuts	784,620	215,544	505,510
Silk:			
Cocoons, dried	3,770,800	557,175	.....
Raw, European	202,500	330,290	.....
Soda:			
Carbonate of	596,794	71,152	10
Caustic, impure	290,730	42,153	.....
Soda water	252,288	112,688	.....
Tanning materials, unground	127,460	646,523	200,588
Tobacco, leaf	3,399,978	1,191,024	.....

Imports.	1914	1915	1916
	Lire.	*Lire.*	*Lire.*
Tools, machine, for wood and metal	16,800	29,336	29,180
Typewriters	301,000	93,580	1,580
Vegetables, dried	323,525	20,841	.....
Wine in casks	385,035	78,490	.....
Wool:			
Carded	68,060	6,541	325
Combed	284,100	65,557	5,788
Not pulled	15,200	.....	16,890
Raw—			
In grease	8,651,120	372,663	.....
Washed	616,356	476,831	.....
Woolen garments	90,200	6,040	1,115
All other articles	22,854,822	395,198	726,696
Total	210 678,627	94,753,179	12,161,892

Products Supplied by Austria, Germany, Etc.

Up to May, 1915, Austria was practically the sole source of supply for mineral waters, bottled beer, arsenical acid, oxide of iron, carbonate of potassium, wax for candles, vegetables, tar, firewood, charcoal, scrap iron, building stones (especially stone of Istria, of which Venice is largely constructed), prunes, and wax; it was also an important source of supply for medicinal woods, paraffin solids, raw and washed wool, redwood, sawed wood, cellulose, stones and earths, and coal.

Germany was for the same period the sole source for caustic potash, sulphate of potassium, steel hearths and grates, millstones, parts for watches, and feculæ, and was an important source for heavy mineral oils, leaf tobacco, iron plates, wrought iron, and many manufactured articles.

Bulgaria supplied large quantities of leaf tobacco, dried cocoons, yellow maize, beans, and millet; and Turkey supplied gums, roots for tanning, raw cotton, raw hides, manganese, millet, dried grapes, castor beans, pistachio seeds, and certain vegetable products.

Greece was an important source for olive oil, oil of turpentine, leaf tobacco, colophony, tanning woods and roots, raw and washed wool, dried cocoons, cellulose, crude skins, iron pyrites, metals, stones, millet, oranges and limes, hazelnuts, carob seed, raisins, flaxseed, pistachio nuts, and other oil seeds and fruits.

Egypt ranked third as a supplier of raw cotton and first as a source of white maize. Bran was also an important import from Egypt.

Other Countries Sharing Import Trade.

Roumania exported petroleum, oats, yellow maize, and oil seeds to Venice.

The United States was an important source of supply for fish oil, cottonseed oil, benzine (gasoline), sulphate of copper, heavy mineral oils, petroleum, oleic acid, paraffin solids (3,324 tons in 1915, Austria second with only 39 tons), resin, raw cotton (second place), sawed lumber, coal, wheat, white maize, flaxseed, fats, and raw mother-of-pearl.

British India supplied the total imports of raw jute and was the leading source of imports of cotton, castor beans, and flaxseed. Great Britain furnished carbonate of sodium, sheet iron, steel rails, coal, and fats.

Russia shipped some wheat and a few tons of lumber.

Fish oil, chemical fertilizers, cellulose, wood pulp, and fresh codfish were imported from Norway.

Brazil was the most important source for coffee, supplying 3,131 tons in 1915; Salvador supplied 406 tons, San Domingo 36 tons, and Porto Rico only 5 tons. There will be great opportunity to increase sales of Porto Rican coffee. Brazil also shipped lubricating oils and pepper.

The Italian colony of Eritrea was the leading source for pistachio nuts, corozo or vegetable ivory, and crude mother-of-pearl.

Decreased Trade in Coal.

In 1913 Venice imported 13,004,619 quintals (quintal=220.46 pounds) of coal, more than twelve-thirteenths of which came from Great Britain. The sources of supply and quantities were: Great Britain, 12,040,145 quintals; Holland, 573,756 quintals; Austria, 354,836 quintals; and Germany, 35,882 quintals. This represents a year's supply under normal conditions. In 1914 the import was smaller, the total being only 10,311,070 quintals. More than nine-tenths of this, or 9,156,080 quintals, was supplied by England; Germany was the second source of supply, with 673,000 quintals; the United States, entering the market for the first time, was third, with 379,550 quintals; and Austria was fourth, with 102,440 quintals. In 1915 Great Britain was the sole source of supply and the entire import was only 2,076,330 quintals; and in 1916 the supply that entered by sea, entirely for naval use, was only 94,950 quintals. For military reasons no figures are available for 1917; importation was made entirely by the Government, which allowed certain industries to purchase a fractional quantity of the amount needed by them.

Imports of Fertilizers.

The latest figures on fertilizers available are for 1913, 1914, 1915, and 1916. In the first of these years Germany furnished three-fifths of the supply of chemical fertilizers, or 15,306 quintals out of a total of 25,416 quintals; Great Britain supplied 8,661 quintals and Norway 1,449. In 1914, out of a smaller import, amounting to 23,706 quintals, Germany furnished a larger quantity than in 1913, sending 16,246 quintals, to Great Britain's 5,123 and Norway's 2,156. In 1915, Norway alone appeared as a source of supply, furnishing 451 quintals; and in 1916 and 1917 there were no imports of chemical fertilizers into this district.

The great bulk of the fertilizers imported consisted of mineral phosphates, practically all coming from Tunis, from which 48,518 metric tons were imported in 1913. In 1914 the total purchases reached 145,085 metric tons, worth 4,462,720 lire. (Normal exchange value of lira is $0.193). In that year mineral phosphates alone were second as to tonnage and tenth as to value of imports. In 1915 the tonnage was cut down more than two-thirds, amounting to 45,519 metric tons, and the value more than half, being 2,183,327 lire.

Nitrate of sodium, all from Chile, was second largest item of fertilizers, 7,933 metric tons being brought into Venice in 1913, which was increased in 1914 to 18,084 metric tons, valued at 4,701,840 lire. In 1915 there were 7,933 metric tons, valued at 3,569,959 lire, imported, an din 1916 only 30 metric tons, valued at 13,500 lire.

The slag known as Scoria Thomas is also counted among the fertilizers. Most of it comes from Great Britain. In 1914 the total importation was 5,150 tons, value 309,000 lire; in 1915, 149 metric tons, valued at 10,448 lire; and in 1916, less than a half ton, valued at 23 lire.

Sources of Wheat Supply.

Wheat imports must be divided according to quality into hard and soft wheat, the former being used for making macaroni and other pastes. The total imports of hard wheat in 1913 were 140,756 quintals, divided as to origin as follows: Russia, 81,396 quintals; United States, 43,678; and British India, 15,682. In 1914 all the hard wheat came from Russia, amounting to 73,803 quintals. In 1915 the entire supply of hard wheat (36,300 quintals) came from the United States. No statistics are given for 1916 and 1917.

Soft wheat was imported in much greater quantities. The leading source in normal times is Argentina. In 1913 the import through Venice was 567,181 quintals from the following countries: Argentina, 218,940 quintals; Russia, 173,787; Roumania, 142,047; and smaller quantities from India, Turkey, and the United States.

In 1914 the imports, which were formerly heavy in the last six months of the year, were affected by the European war so much that the entire quantity received was only 70,887 quintals: Russia furnishing 60,741; Roumania, 5,547; Germany, 4,019; and British India, 580. In 1915 most of the importation was made in the first four and one-half months. There was a total purchase of 405,715 quintals from different sources, the United States furnishing 292,206 quintals, nearly three-fourths of the supply; Argentina, only 107,564 quintals; and Russia, 5,944. The quantity that came in 1916 was valued at only 62 lire; and for 1917 statistics are not available or appear entirely in the records of other ports.

Exports to United States Affected by War Conditions.

The exports of this district have been seriously affected by the war. Formerly Venice was a tourist city selling large quantities of articles of art and luxury to tourists, most of the sales being less than $100 in value, and not appearing in consular statistics. Decreases in this respect began with the outbreak of the war. The merchant trade of the port slackened at the beginning of the war and ceased entirely in May, 1915.

The following important exports to America have been stopped or seriously diminished: Antique works of art, beet pulp, broom corn, cheese, crude drugs, cabinet furniture, garlic, glass manufactures (especially blown and handmade glass), glass mosaics, glycerin, straw hats, hemp, hides, jute, marble and stone and works of, paper rags, and woolen cloths.

Antique works of art were sent to America to the value of $29,853 in 1913, a normal year; in 1914, a phenomenal year, $81,321; and in 1915, $12,642. In 1916 shipments were valued at only $5,766, and in 1917, $13,029.

Modern art has been more seriously affected than antique. Modern oil and water paintings were sold to America in 1913 to the value of $38,151. The first half of 1914 showed heavy sales, but the year's total was only $34,009; this dropped to $870 in 1915, increased to $2,566 in 1916, and vanished entirely in 1917

Glass Industry of Venice.

Other art industries mainly affected were glass manufactures, glass mosaics, carved marble and stone, and art furniture. Murano blown and handmade glass, famous as Venetian glass, had lost all of its markets of importance except America by 1915. Shipments to America amounted to $18,447 in 1913; but in 1914 the war caused a drop to $7,887, after which there was a persistent revival so that the shipments in 1915 were $10,363 and in 1916, $29,973. In 1917 the high cost of fuel and the difficulty of getting raw materials was felt, and the value of shipments dropped to $12,595. After Caporetto, with the enemy lines so near and with fuel so expensive and difficult to obtain, the glass-making industry ceased to operate at Murano, and in April of 1918 was transferred to Livorno, where the three principal manufacturers have united to start furnaces and where some 600 employees have been removed.

Another glass industry at Murano was that of making glass mosaics, usually shipped pasted on sheets of paper in picture designs. The United States purchased $37,223 worth of glass mosaics in 1913, $17,100 in 1914, $14,217 in 1915, $5,971 in 1916, and $1,285 in 1917, practically all delivery in orders of several years standing. The moving of the glass furnaces affects the mosaic industry, as the glass fondants in color from which the mosaics are cut were made at the glass foundries. By special agreement the glass industry now at Livorno is to return to Murano as soon as the war is over and trade conditions permit.

Art furniture was a big and flourishing industry prior to the war. Sales to the United States were $28,880 in 1913, $7,652 in 1914, $14,511 in 1915, $5,288 in 1916, and only $240 in 1917. The largest factory, owned by an enemy firm, is now administered by the Italian Government. Marble and stone, and works of, including a large quantity of fake antiques, should be included in the art industries of Venice. Exports to the United States were valued at $13,517 in 1913. In 1914 sales of carved marble and stone to America were $56,302, and art works in marble and stone were $12,456; in 1915 these were valued at $703 and $3,820, respectively; in 1916, $582 and $7,609; and in 1917, $372 and $6,993.

United States Trade Revives Lace Making.

Certain industries, although affected seriously by the war and losing many markets, were kept alive and even flourishing by the trade of the United States. This was especially true of laces and embroidery. Venetian laces and embroidery shipments to the United States in 1913 were $175,885, and prior to August, 1914, were showing a large increase over the preceding year. The European war caused a bad slump in the lace industry, and prices were lower than they are ever likely to be again. The total sales to America were $122,745 in 1914. In 1915 there was a big rally and the American market absorbed goods invoiced at $260,842, which again doubled in 1916, with shipments to America of $582,132. Despite the adverse conditions of the last two months of 1917, a large increase was registered for the year, with American sales amounting to $672,520.

The lace industry was practically under control of American buyers for Syrian-American firms. All of these moved from Venice except one, which maintains an office with a greatly decreased production.

Most of the Venetian lace-buying firms went to Florence, and the lace industry has been largely transferred to Florence, Cesenatico, Genoa, and other places. Some lace continues to be made at Murano, Venice, Chioggia, and in the Venetian district. It will probably be a long time after the war before the lace industry at Venice and Murano assumes the normal flourishing condition to which it attained before and during the war.

Venetian silk velvet showed an increase in popularity during the war so far as the American market was concerned, but not nearly enough to compensate for the loss of other markets. Shipments to America were valued at $492 in 1914, $169 in 1915, $3,677 in 1916, and $9,964 in 1917. The brocade weaving industry was transferred to Livorno in 1918.

Bead Factories Moved to Genoa and Lyon.

Next to the lace and embroidery industry of Venice that of making glass beads is the most important so far as the American market is concerned; and this is another case where American demand atoned for losses of other national markets. Sales of glass beads to America in 1914 were $28,092, which was only slightly less than in 1913. A decrease occurred in 1915, the shipments amounting to $17,529, but in 1916 the value rose to $59,367, which was increased nearly threefold in 1917 to $162,388. In the closing two months of 1917, however, the prohibitive price of coal, the scant supply, and the difficulty of getting supplies of soda and sand that came mostly from France caused the manufacture to practically cease and the bulk of the business to be transferred to Genoa and to Lyon, France. A considerable stock of beads still remains in storage at Murano, however. The industry of handmade beads has practically ceased to exist in Venice. Griffon Frères have opened near Rimini a small plant employing about 60 girls. Other industries that moved with the machine-made bead works were those of flower and purse making from beads, the making of glass cotton and wool, and the making of glass ornaments. Most of these industries will be revived in Venice after the war, but when skilled workmen are scattered it is not easy to replace them or to train others.

Many Articles Shipped to United States Show Decrease.

Dried beet pulp, of which $25,025 worth was shipped to the United States in 1913, was largely shipped in 1914, being valued at $85,123; since that year there have been no shipments at all, as the beets have been needed for sugar and forage. In 1913, $77,352 worth of broom corn went to America, $9,395 worth in 1914, and none since.

In 1914 there were 86,919 pounds of cheese, valued at $11,887, shipped from Venice to America and in 1915 only 20,933 pounds, worth $3,124; there have been no shipments since. In 1917 cheese began to be very scarce in Venice, and in 1918 the local market has been supplied with great difficulty from other parts of Italy.

American demand for cuttlefish bone has never diminished and as no restrictions of exportation went into effect the shipments to America increased in value each year of the war up to the end of 1917 as follows: In 1913, $7,125; 1914, $5,939; 1915, $12,261; 1916, $25,501; and 1917, $31,918. The quantities, however, were not correspondingly increased, as the price had increased by the end of 1917 to six times that of 1914.

Crude drugs, dried herbs and grasses, roots and medicinal leaves and seeds were exported from the Venice district to America until the prohibitions of exportation cut them off in 1917. The total value for 1914 was $2,251; for 1915, $9,033; and for 1916, $13,779.

Garlic shipments from Venice to United States have decreased from $20,672 in 1913 to $15,284 (quantity 340,156 pounds) in 1914, $15,857 (quantity, 171,288 pounds) in 1915, $3,551 (quantity, 66,921 pounds) in 1916, and $3,766 (quantity, 78,412 pounds) in 1917.

Straw hats, the making of which was a fair-sized industry near Venice, showed a progressive decrease until November, 1917, when the industry ceased. Exports to America were $17,343 in 1913, $19,269 in 1914, $5,761 in 1915, $5,398 in 1916, and $3,099 in 1917. This industry can be and probably will be resumed after the war.

Raw hemp exports to America were worth $288,793 in 1913, $281,316 in 1914 (quantity, 1,538 metric tons), and then dropped to $21,367 (75 tons) in 1915 and $28,793 (77 tons) in 1916. There have been no shipments made since.

Jute exports to the United States had a normal value of $21,238 in 1913. Only $6,787 worth was shipped in 1914, after which shipments to America ceased entirely.

Shipments of woolen cloths fluctuated greatly in value before ceasing entirely in 1916, amounting to $24,124 in 1914, $41,030 in 1915, and $5,085 in 1916.

Venice as a Market for American Goods.

The total value of shipments from Venice to the United States was $961,456 in 1913; the year 1914, despite five months of European war, showed an increase to $986,657; but the entrance of Italy into the war in May, 1915, reduced the exports for that year to $520,684. Heavily increased sales in Venetian lace and embroidery and glass beads made the total $823,067 in 1916, with Venice a closed port, and in 1917, with the last two months showing the effect of Caporetto, the export reached normal, with a total of $952,033. Since November, 1917, however, the foreign commerce of Venice has been almost discontinued.

The invasion seriously affected Venice as a possible market for American goods. Two-thirds of the stores here have closed their doors and others are selling out the stock on hand without replenishing it. The natural uncertainties of war, with the increased insurance risks, diminished facilities for transportation and rendered merchants indisposed to increase their stocks and especially indisposed to give orders for American goods with a necessarily long interval before delivery could be effected. A factor of equal importance has been the fluctuating exchange and the constantly diminishing value of the Italian currency. These facts make it advisable for American merchants who wish to enter this territory at this time to establish deposits of goods at Genoa or Milan, preferably Genoa, and to make shipments through their branch houses after a careful study of trade and credit conditions. The value of trade lists has been greatly impaired and the expediency of sending such lists from the Veneto at this time is not at all commensurate with the great difficulty in obtaining sufficiently accurate information which would serve as a guide to the American seller.

Until the United States adopts the metric system of weights and measures that country will be greatly handicapped in its efforts to increase its foreign trade. The fact that at the present time the demand for American goods is greater than the supply should not prevent this system being adopted before the post-war competition forces this step.

Foreign Commerce for Five Years.

The quantity (in quintals of 220.46 pounds) of all the imports and exports at the port of Venice from 1913 to 1917, inclusive, is presented in the following table:

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	Quintals.	*Quintals.*		*Quintals.*	*Quintals.*
1913	23,000,000	1,950,000	1916	206,200	6,000
1914	16,760,000	2,000,000	1917	459,000	7,890
1915	4,139,000	450,000			

Crop Yield of Venice District.

The important crops in this consular district are grapes, wine, maize, and wheat. Large quantities of vegetables are grown, but separate statistics of the yield are not compiled.

There is no general bureau for the Veneto to which all the Provinces make crop reports, but in normal times separate reports and estimates may be had from each of the eight Provinces comprising the Venice consular district. The crop yield of the Province of Venice for 1917 and the estimates for 1918 are compared below with the yield for the normal years 1913 and 1914:

Crops.	1913	1914	1917	1918
	Quintals.	*Quintals.*	*Quintals.*	*Quintals.*
Wheat, soft	452,760	450,800	371,000	146,900
Corn	1,232,180	1,268,209	827,370	400,000
Oats	78,000	92,000	62,220	16,500
Potatoes	.....	.....	206,400	100,000
Beets	.....	288,000	234,000	15,000
Beans, dried	.....	.....	46,200	21,300
Vegetables, fresh, in pods	57,480	60,080	.....	.....

The Province of Venice imports all its hard wheat and the quantity estimated necessary for consumption in 1918 is 30,000 quintals. This hard wheat is imported almost entirely in the form of macaroni. The estimated production of rice is only 240 quintals and the estimated consumption is 48,000 quintals. Part of this rice is imported from another Province of the Veneto, but the greater quantity is imported from central Italy, especially the Department of Emilia.

The estimated production of soft wheat for 1918 is 146,900 quintals, and the estimated consumption is 155,420 quintals.

In the Province of Venice the probable consumption of maize for 1918 is estimated at 240,000 quintals, but the rich alluvial delta and valley soil will produce this season about 400,000 quintals, leaving 160,000 quintals for shipment to other parts of Italy. Nevertheless, this production is less than half of that for 1917 and is decidedly less than a third of normal production. Italy maize import for 1918 will approximate 20,000,000 quintals, supplied largely by the United States and Argentina.

Shortage of Food Supplies.

The supply of foodstuffs in the Veneto and in all Italy has been limited, the shortage of fats, both animal and vegetable, being felt most keenly. In normal times the population consumes a great deal of olive oil, which is largely used as a substitute for animal fats for cooking purposes. There is no olive oil produced in the Province of Venice, and the Department of Venice produces less than any department of Italy, so the supply in this district has been very small.

Meats of all kinds have been very scarce and high. Bread, sugar, rice, macaroni, corn meal, and cooking oil are rationed by card. Flour is sacked at the mills to contain 85 per cent of pure flour and 15 per cent of wheat bran. Since June, 1918, bakers have used a mixture of 80 parts of this flour and 20 parts of rice flour. Prior to that time a mixture of maize meal and flour of barley, oats, or rye was used instead of rice flour.

Local prohibitions of exportation of foodstuffs and taxes on imports have led to an unequal distribution of the food products of Italy and have caused a lack in some Provinces of articles that were to be had in abundance in others.

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